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Teachers at Dinner-Meet

El Camino College will host the executive board of the California Science Teachers Assn., Southern California Section at a dinner and business meeting tonight at 8 o'clock.

James Campbell, chemistry instructor and pre-engineering counselor at El Camino College, is the president of the CSTA-SCS group for this school year.

Two items which are scheduled for the board's considerations are plans for the annual spring meeting of the organization and representations of the CSTA - SCS at the 8th annual convention of the National Science Teachers Assn.

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Chessman Reprieve May Prolong Current Session of Legislature

By VINCENT THOMAS
Assemblyman, 68th District

A topic which may considerably prolong our current session, which opened Monday, is the highly controversial matter of repeal of our state law on capital punishment. When the matter was included in the call for the special session which is running concurrently with our budget session, the outcry which arose from all quarters made it very apparent that our meeting could be long and troublesome.

Capital punishment is an issue which has been before us

many times in the past. The last effort to abolish it was made at our 1959 session, but the bill for the purpose was refused passage in the house of origin.

THE CALL for action on this matter is admittedly tied into a particular case which has made the headlines, not only in this country, but all over the world, for many months. But whether this case should have triggered the re-entry of the matter into the present session is something which has been, and will continue to be,

vigorously discussed by members of both our legislative houses, as well as the general public, both here and abroad.

From the start it was obvious that the matter might affect our work on the state budget for next year. One of our leading members in budgetary work plainly stated that the issue should be settled before final action is taken on the \$2.5 billion expenditure bill.

ONE OF THE important questions still unresolved, is whether any decision we legislators might make on the sub-

ject at this session would have any effect on the celebrated case which has created so much excitement. Already we have learned that some people believe so, but according to legal advice now available, there is not much chance that their hopes can be realized.

This issue is one of the most emotionally packed to come before us in a long time, not forgetting the water dispute.

There are those who strongly feel that the death sentence should be inflicted in the present case, but should then be abolished. There are others

who are equally firm in their conviction that capital punishment should never be repealed. And in between there are many varied opinions as to what our final course should be. Many are questioning whether it is a sufficiently urgent matter to require action by a special session.

THE INTERNATIONAL publicity given the particular case which brought capital punishment before us again illustrates only too vividly the pressure that public opinion can bring to bear on governmental administrators and Legislators. The issue is no longer the guilt and punishment of one individual. Instead, it has grown until it is now a major difference between basic theories of government and its relationship to the people governed.

None of us in the California Legislature can ignore the fact that, quite literally, the eyes of the world will be on us in our deliberations on this matter of the future of the death sentence in our state. The hearings of our committees on the proposal will be intensively covered by press, radio and television. So will the floor action or either or both our houses if the bill is reported out of committee.

Neither can we overlook the obvious fact that the issue has become a factor in federal-state relationships. The oblique way in which pressure of the national government was brought against our state government demonstrates the extent to which we must be vigilant to protect the independence and integrity of our state government in this significant matter.

Open House at Torrance High Set for March 8

Torrance High School's Annual Open House will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8th. All teachers will be available in their respective rooms to talk with interested parents. Student projects will be displayed and students will be demonstrating equipment or working on projects in such areas as homemaking, science, arts, crafts, boys' and girls' physical education, business education, industrial arts, and Torrance High School's dance band.

The Torrance High School PTA will serve refreshments at 9 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

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